



## **CITY OF SALINAS**

### **COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

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**DATE:** December 1, 2020

**DEPARTMENT:** LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**FROM:** KRISTAN LUNDQUIST, LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

**BY:** JOSE ARREOLA, COMMUNITY SAFETY ADMINISTRATOR

**TITLE:** THE APPLICATION FOR STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS (PROP 68) FOR THE HEBBRON FAMILY CENTER AND CLOSTER PARK

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

A motion to approve a resolution authorizing the submittal of two grant applications to Round Four of the California Department of Parks and Recreation Office for the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (Prop 68).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that Council approve the resolution authorizing the Library Community Services Department to submit two grant applications to the California Department of Parks and Recreation Office for the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (Prop 68).

**BACKGROUND:**

In August of 2019 the Library Community Services (LCS) Department submitted a grant application requesting \$8.5 Million in funds for the revitalization of the Hebbbron Family Center through Round Three of the California Prop 68 Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program. The recently concluded Parks, Recreation and Libraries Master Plan deemed the Hebbbron Family Center to have “no architectural value” left and is recommending that this facility be replaced. Our application was not selected for funding in 2019. This is a highly competitive grant, in 2019 only 9% of applications were funded. There were over \$1 Billion in projects that were applied for out of \$243 Million in available funding.

LCS Director Lundquist and her team met with our States Grant liaison early in 2020 to learn what we could have done to have a more competitive application. According to the state we submitted a very strong application and the only area of improvement identified was Project Selection Criterion #2, “Significant Poverty”. For this criterion the median household income within a half mile radius of the project site is ranked against all other applicants and you are given points based

on your comparative ranking. The Hebbbron area has one of the lowest median household incomes in the entire city of Salinas. This is a difficult area to improve upon and our competitiveness is largely based on the other projects that apply.

In March of 2020 Round Four of the California Prop 68 Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program was announced with a much larger amount of available funding than Round Three. There are \$395M in available funding this round nearly \$150M more than in Round Three. Our State Parks grant liaison has strongly encouraged us to reapply for our Hebbbron Revitalization Project and to submit applications for new projects as well.

This grant opportunity made possible by the passage of Proposition 68 allows us to apply for up to \$8.5 million dollars for each eligible project. The ideal projects for this grant opportunity are the replacement of the heavily used and ideally located Hebbbron Family Center and for major improvements to be made to key recreation features at Closter Park.

The replacement of the Hebbbron Family Center scored and ranked the highest for recreation center facilities in our community engagement and professional facilities assessments. It is a top priority because of its critical condition and heavy use by the community. The center hosts hundreds of youth daily with our drop-in recreation programming, citizenship classes, tiny tot program, karate, food bank distribution, teen program, community wide events and is a convenient meeting place for many local community groups. A major weather event or serious repair issue could cause us to close part or the whole building down over safety concerns. This grant application is part of our goal to finding a solution to rebuild this important center for the community.

The renovation of Closter Park scored and ranked the highest of our over 50 parks in our community engagement and professional facilities assessments. The park hosts hundreds of people daily on the basketball courts, large playground, multiple ball fields, in the community center and jogging or walking around the park. Apart from the basketball courts, all the major amenities need repair and or replacement due to heavy use or age. This grant application is part of our goal to finding a solution to renovate this important park central to a thriving and densely populated community.

#### CEQA CONSIDERATION:

**Not a Project.** The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

#### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The application for this grant funding supports the following City Council Goals:

- ☐ Operational Efficiencies
- ☐ Public Safety

#### DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

Throughout the grant application process the Library & Community Services Department will coordinate and collaborate with the Public Works and Community Development Departments to

include discussing this grant opportunity and how it supports implementation of the Parks, Recreation and Library Master Plan and the Alisal Vibrancy Plan.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The grant requires a commitment from the Applicant that if awarded the grant the organization has or will have enough funds to operate and maintain the project for up to thirty years. If successful, the grant ensures a community center in the Hebbroon Heights area and a thriving park central to thousands of youth and their families in the heart of Salinas for decades to come.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution, Hebbroon Heights Revitalization Project

Resolution, Closter Park Improvement Project